



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**BIOCONVERSION OF SAGO EFFLUENT TO ORGANIC ACIDS BY
BATCH AND CONTINUOUS ANAEROBIC TREATMENT WITH POME
SLUDGE AS INOCULUM**

ONG MING HOOI

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By

ONG MING HOOI

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Science in the Faculty of Food Science and Biotechnology
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

May 2001

Specially dedicated to,

My beloved parents who provided the opportunities

and my brother and friends,

for their invaluable love, patience and understanding.....

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**BIOCONVERSION OF SAGO EFFLUENT TO ORGANIC ACIDS BY
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Chairman : Associate Professor Dr. Mohd. Ali Hassan

Faculty : Food Science and Biotechnology

This study reports on the utilisation of the residual organics in sago starch processing effluent for the production of organic acids. Treatments were conducted under anaerobic conditions with mild mixing in batch and continuous operations. The production of organic acids was conducted at different concentrations of sludge (0%, 10%, 20% and 30%), pH (no pH adjustment, controlled constantly at pH 7, manual adjustment to pH 7 every 12 hours, initial pH 5.5 and pH 7) and retention time (5 days and 7.5 days). The conversion of residual starch to organic acids was very poor at only 1-2 g/L when the raw sago effluent was treated with its natural microflora and pH in batch system. However, when 20%-30% (w/w) of sludge was added, about 12-13 g/L of organic acids were produced within 2 days of treatment, with lactic acid (9.5 g/L) and acetic acid (2.5 g/L) as the dominant acids, i.e. about 70% yield based on the initial COD of 18, 000 mg/L. The results showed that treatment with intermittent pH adjustment at pH 7 every 12 hours with 20% of sludge addition

appeared to give the highest organic acids concentration (13.4 g/L), with lactic, acetic and propionic acids at about 9.5 g/L, 2.5 g/L and 1.5 g/L respectively.

The acid composition was dependent on the pH. Acetic acid was mainly produced at neutral pH range with more than 60% selectivity and lactic acid at lower pH range. At pH 5.5, lactic acid remained in the medium much longer and a higher selectivity of more than 80% could be achieved.

During the continuous anaerobic treatment with 5 days retention time, about 7-8g/L of organic acids was attained under the steady state condition. By increasing the retention time to 7.5 days, total organic acids ranged from 6-6.5g/L was obtained during the steady state with total microbial population stabilized at 10^7 cfu/mL in the reactor. The continuous treatment system succeeded to remove the suspended solids of the effluent which mainly comprised of residual starch from 18 000 mg/L to 2000 mg/L during the steady state. This represented more than 80% of suspended solids removal. The suspended solids which contributed to the COD of the effluent was converted to organic acids with 45% yield at steady state. After the recovery process by ion-exchange chromatography and evaporation, 7.5 and 8.2 times of organic acids concentration could be achieved with the final concentration attained at 52.3 g/L and 61.3 g/L respectively. The recovery system was capable of removing more than 80% COD from the sago effluent.

Abstrak thesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains.

**BIOPENUKARAN SISA PEMROSESAN SAGO UNTUK PENGHASILAN
ASID ORGANIK MELALUI SISTEM ANAEROBIK SESEKELOMPOK DAN
SELANJAR DENGAN MENGGUNAKAN ENAPCEMAR POME SEBAGAI
INOKULUM**

Oleh

ONG MING HOOI

Mei 2001

Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Dr. Mohd. Ali Hassan

Fakulti : Sains Makanan dan Bioteknologi

Kajian ini melaporkan penggunaan bahan organik dalam sisa pemprosesan sago sebagai substrat untuk penghasilan asid-asid organik. Penghasilan asid organik telah dijalankan secara rawatan anaerobik sesekelompok dan selanjar. Faktor-faktor yang dikaji dalam kajian ini termasuk penggunaan kepekatan enapcemar yang berlainan (0%, 10%, 20% dan 30%), pH (pH tidak dikawal, pH dikawal pada 7 sepanjang masa, pH dikawal pada 7 setiap 12.jam, pH dimula pada 7 dan 5.5 masing-masing dan tiada kawalan pH dikenakan seterusnya) dan masa mastautin yang berbeza (5 hari dan 7.5 hari). Apabila sisa pemprosesan sago dirawat dalam keadaan pH dan populasi mikroorganisma semulajadinya, penghasilan asid organik adalah sangat rendah dengan kepekatan mencapai 1-2g/L sahaja. Walaubagaimanapun, apabila 20-30% enapcemar ditambahkan dalam sistem rawatan sesekelompok, sebanyak 12-13g/L asid organik dapat dihasilkan dalam masa 2 hari dengan asid laktik (9.5g/L) dan asid

asetik (2.5g/L) sebagai asid penting. Ini memberi 70% penghasilan berasaskan COD awal 18,000mg/L. Keputusan kajian menunjukkan rawatan pada pH 7 dengan kawalan pH setiap 12 jam, penambahan 20% enapcemar memberi penghasilan asid organik yang terbaik (13.4g/L), dengan kepekatan asid laktik, asetik dan propionik mencapai 9.5g/L, 2.5g/L dan 1.5g/L masing-masing.

Komposisi asid yang terhasil adalah bergantung kepada pH. Asid asetik lebih cenderung dihasilkan pada pH neutral dengan peratus pemilihan lebih daripada 60% manakala asid laktik dihasilkan dalam keadaan pH yang lebih rendah. Pada pH 5.5, asid laktik didapati berada dalam medium pada jangka masa yang lebih panjang dengan peratus pemilihan lebih daripada 80%.

Semasa rawatan anaerobik selanjar pada masa mastautin 5 hari, sebanyak 7-8g/L asid organik telah dihasilkan pada keadaan mantap. Dengan menambahkan masa mastautin ke 7.5 hari, jumlah asid organik 6-6.5g/L telah dikuantitikan dengan populasi mikroorganisma mencapai kestabilan pada 10^7 koloni terbentuk/mL di dalam reaktor. Sistem selanjar didapati berjaya menyingkirkan bahan pepejal dari nilai awal 18 000mg/L ke nilai akhir 2000mg/L dalam keadaan mantap. Ini menunjukkan lebih daripada 80% penyingkiran bahan pepejal telah tercapai pada akhir eksperimen. Bahan pepejal yang terdapat di dalam sisa pemprosesan sago telah ditukarkan kepada asid organik dengan peratus penghasilan 45% dalam keadaan mantap.

Selepas proses pengasingan dengan menggunakan resin penukarganti anion dan pemelupaan, asid organik didapati boleh dipekatkan sebanyak 7.5 dan 8.2 kali dengan

kepekatan akhir tercapai pada 52.3g/L dan 61.3g/L masing-masing. Proses pengasingan asid organik telah berjaya menyingkirkan lebih daripada 80% COD daripada sisa cecair sago.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 24th May 2001 to conduct the final examination of Ong Ming Hooi on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Bioconversion of Sago Effluent to Organic Acids by Batch and Continuous Anaerobic Treatment with Pome Sludge as Inoculum” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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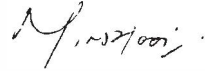


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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledge. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION.....	ii
ABSTRACT.....	iii
ABSTRAK.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	viii
APPROVAL SHEETS.....	x
DECLARATION FORM.....	xii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xvi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xviii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	xxiii

CHAPTER

I	INTRODUCTION.....	1
	1.1 The Sago Industry in Malaysia.....	1
	1.2 Sago Processing Wastes and Environment Pollution.....	2
	1.3 Objectives.....	5
II	LITERATURE REVIEW.....	6
	2.1 Sago Processing Waste.....	6
	2.1.1 Origin of Sago Processing Waste.....	6
	2.1.2 Treatment System of Sago Waste.....	11
	2.1.3 Microbial Utilisation of Sago Waste.....	12
	2.2 Sludge.....	16
	2.2.1 Sludge Treatment and Utilisation.....	16
	2.3 Starch as Carbon Source.....	18
	2.3.1 Carbohydrate Residues in Sago Processing Waste...	18
	2.3.2 Enzymic Hydrolysis of Starch.....	19
	2.3.3 Carbohydrate Hydrolysing Enzymes (α -Amylases)..	23
	2.4 Anaerobic Treatment.....	25
	2.4.1 Microbiology and Biochemistry of Anaerobic Treatment.....	27
	2.4.2 Acidogenesis.....	32
	2.4.3 Environment Conditions Affecting Acidogenesis...	36
	2.5 Wastewater Analysis.....	44
	2.5.1 Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD).....	44
	2.5.2 Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD).....	45
	2.5.3 Total Solids, Suspended Solids and Dissolved Solids.....	46
	2.6 Organic Acids.....	48
	2.6.1 Organic Acids of Commercial Interest.....	49
	2.6.2 Organic Acids Fermentation.....	52
	2.6.3 Potential Application of Organic Acids.....	57

2.7	Fermentation Process and Culture Methods.....	62
2.7.1	Microbial Metabolites.....	62
2.7.2	Batch Culture.....	64
2.7.3	Continuous Culture.....	66
2.8	Product Recovery and Purification.....	68
2.8.1	Ion Exchange Chromatography.....	69
2.8.2	Evaporation.....	72
III	GENERAL MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	74
3.1	Chemical Reagents.....	74
3.2	Sago Processing Effluent and POME Sludge.....	75
3.3	Anaerobic Treatment of Sago Processing Wastewater.....	76
3.4	Screening for Amylase Producing Bacteria.....	78
3.5	Screening for Acid Producing Bacteria.....	79
3.6	Biolog MicroLog Bacteria Identification Systems.....	80
3.7	Maintenance of Bacterial Strains.....	83
3.8	Experimental Design.....	83
3.9	Analytical Methods.....	86
3.9.1	Quantitative Analyses.....	86
3.9.2	Qualitative Analyses.....	97
IV	IMPROVEMENT OF CULTURE CONDITIONS AND MEDIUM FOR ORGANIC ACIDS PRODUCTION DURING BATCH ANAEROBIC TREATMENT OF SAGO EFFLUENT.....	100
4.1	Introduction.....	100
4.2	Materials and Methods.....	102
4.2.1	Sago Processing Effluent and POME Sludge.....	102
4.2.2	Characterisation of Sago Effluent and Centrifuged POME Sludge.....	103
4.2.3	Batch Anaerobic Treatment.....	103
4.2.4	Samples Analyses.....	105
4.3	Results and Discussion.....	105
4.3.1	Characterisation of Sago Processing Effluent.....	105
4.3.2	Characterisation of Centrifuged POME Sludge.....	108
4.3.3	Batch Anaerobic Treatment.....	110
4.4	Conclusion.....	133

V	CONTINUOUS ANAEROBIC TREATMENT OF SAGO EFFLUENT FOR ORGANIC ACIDS PRODUCTION.....	134
5.1	Introduction.....	134
5.2	Materials and Methods.....	136
5.2.1	Sago Processing Effluent and POME Sludge.....	136
5.2.2	Continuous Anaerobic Treatment.....	137
5.2.3	Samples Analyses.....	138
5.2.4	Ion Exchange Chromatography and Evaporation...	138
5.2.5	Screening Methods.....	139
5.3	Results and Discussion.....	140
5.3.1	Continuous Anaerobic Treatment.....	140
5.3.2	Separation and Concentration of Organic Acids.....	161
5.3.3	Microbes Isolation.....	164
5.4	Conclusion.....	176
VI	GENERAL DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE WORK.....	178
6.1	Summary.....	178
6.2	Conclusion.....	183
6.3	Suggestion for Future Works.....	185
	REFERENCES.....	187
	APPENDICES.....	207
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR.....	216

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1.1 General characteristics of sago starch wastewater and parameters limits for wastewater discharge by DOE.....	3
2.1 Results of sago pith analysis.....	9
2.2 Characteristics of sago starch wastewater.....	10
2.3 Characteristics of starch degrading enzymes.....	22
2.4 Comparison of various bacterial α -amylases.....	25
2.5 Different organic acids with their pKa.....	49
2.6 Composition of cation and anion exchangers.....	70
4.1 Characterization of raw sago effluent.....	106
4.2 Content of organic acids in raw sago effluent.....	108
4.3 Characterization of centrifuged POME sludge.....	109
4.4 Starch residual, amylase activity, total sugars, maximum total organic acids and yield during anaerobic treatment of sago effluent at its natural pH and microflora.....	122
4.5 Starch residual, amylase activity, total sugars, maximum total organic acids and yield during anaerobic treatment of sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually at different concentration of sludge.....	122
4.6 Starch residual, amylase activity, total sugars, maximum total organic acids and yield during anaerobic treatment of sago effluent at pH 5.5 at different concentration of sludge.....	123
4.7 Comparison of COD between raw sago effluent and Synthetic organic acids.....	125

5.1	The total organic acids production, total microbial count and the yield during the steady state of the continuous treatment.....	143
5.2	The effect of pH on the selectivity of individual organic acid during the steady state.....	147
5.3	Separation and concentration of organic acids by anion exchange chromatography.....	161
5.4	Concentration of organic acids before and after evaporation at 60°C.....	163
5.5	Morphological and biochemical characteristics of isolated starch degrading bacteria.....	167
5.6	Carbon fermentation balances at neutral pH for the starch Degrading bacteria species 1 (<i>B. halodurans</i>), isolated from the continuous anaerobic treatment.....	170
5.7	Carbon fermentation balances at neutral pH for the starch Degrading bacteria species 2 (<i>B. licheniformis</i>), isolated from the continuous anaerobic treatment.....	170
5.8	Morphological and biochemical characteristics of isolated acid-producing bacteria	174
5.9	Maximum total organic acids production during the fermentation experiment of the acid-producing bacteria isolated from the continuous anaerobic treatment.....	174

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
2.1 Flow diagram of a modern sago processing factory.....	7
2.2 Sago logs are debarked manually by the factory worker.....	7
2.3 Fibrous material are separated through the rotary screen.....	8
2.4 After sedimentation to remove the starch in a long narrow trough, the sago wastewater is just discharged into the waterways without any treatment.....	8
2.5 Social-economic farm cooperate system using sago palm as renewable resource.....	15
2.6 Enzymatic starch hydrolysis.....	21
2.7 Starch hydrolysis by amylases.....	23
2.8 Microbial groups involved in anaerobic digestion.....	28
2.9 Reactions performed by acid-producing bacteria.....	33
2.10 End-product of various microbial fermentation.....	34
2.11 Classification and size range of particles found in Wastewater.....	48
2.12 Enantiomers of lactic acid.....	52
2.13 Market for acetic acid.....	59
3.1 Sago effluent was collected from Boh Hion Sago Factory in Batu Pahat.....	76
3.2 Batch anaerobic treatment bioreactor.....	77
3.3 Continuous anaerobic treatment bioreactor.....	78
3.4 5 basic microbial identification on steps involved in Biolog system.....	81
3.5 Experimental design.....	85

3.6	High Pressure Liquid Chromatography for organic acids Determination.....	87
3.7	Anion exchange chromatography set-up for organic acids Separation.....	96
3.8	Rotary evaporator used for organic acids separation.....	97
4.1	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at its natural pH and microflora.....	111
4.2	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually without addition of sludge.....	114
4.3	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with 10% sludge addition.....	114
4.4	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with 20% sludge addition.....	115
4.5	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with 30% sludge addition.....	115
4.6	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at initial pH 5.5 without addition of sludge.....	116
4.7	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at initial pH 5.5 with 10% sludge addition.....	116
4.8	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at initial pH 5.5 with 20% sludge addition.....	117
4.9	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at initial pH 5.5 with 30% sludge addition.....	117
4.10	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent without pH controlled with 20% sludge addition.....	130

4.11	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 (constantly) with 20% sludge addition.....	130
4.12	Profiles of organic acids and pH during batch anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at initial pH 7 with 20% sludge addition.....	130
5.1	Profiles of organic acids and pH during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	144
5.2	Profiles of organic acids and pH during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	144
5.3	Profiles of organic acids and pH during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 7.5 days.....	144
5.4	Profiles of residual starch, total sugars, total acids and amylase activity during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	157
5.5	Profiles of residual starch, total sugars, total acids and amylase activity during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	157
5.6	Profiles of residual starch, total sugars, total acids and amylase activity during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 7.5 days.....	
5.7	Profiles of total solids and suspended solids during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 7 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	160
5.8	Profiles of total solids and suspended solids during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 5 days.....	160

5.9	Profiles of total solids and suspended solids during continuous anaerobic treatment of raw sago effluent at pH 5.5 adjusted manually with RT 7.5 days.....	160
5.10	The hydrolysis zones on starch agar after iodine staining (species 1).....	165
5.11	The hydrolysis zones on starch agar after iodine staining (species 2).....	165
5.12	The colony appearance of isolated starch degrading bacteria (species 1).....	166
5.13	The colony appearance of isolated starch degrading bacteria (species 2).....	166
5.14	The morphology of starch degrading bacteria under microscopy observation (species 1).....	166
5.15	The morphology of starch degrading bacteria under microscopy observation (species 2).....	166
5.16	The morphology of acid-producing bacteria under the microscopy observation (species 1).....	173
5.17	The morphology of acid-producing bacteria under the microscopy observation (species 2).....	173
5.18	The colour changes of BCP “Nissui” agar from purple to yellow after the formation of acid-producing colonies.....	175
A1	Standard curve for determination of lactic acid concentration.....	208
A2	Standard curve for determination of acetic acid concentration.....	208
A3	Standard curve for determination of butyric acid concentration.....	209
A4	Standard curve for determination of propionic acid concentration...	209
A5	Standard curve for determination of total sugars concentration.....	210
A6	Standard curve for determination of starch concentration.....	210
A7	Standard curve for determination of amylase activity.....	211

C1	Starch degrading bacteria (species 1) identified by Biolog Microlog Bacteria Identification System.....	214
C2	Starch degrading bacteria (species 2) identified by Biolog Microlog Bacteria Identification System.....	215

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APB	-	Acid producing bacteria
ASPS	-	Apparent starch plus sugar
ATP	-	Adenosine triphosphate
BCP	-	Bromocresol purple
BCP agar	-	Bromocresol purple agar
BOD	-	Biological oxygen demand
CaCO ₃	-	Calcium carbonate
CO ₂	-	Carbon dioxide
COD	-	Chemical oxygen demand
D	-	Dilution
DOE	-	Division of Environment
EMP	-	Embden-Meyerhof pathway
F	-	Flow rate
H ₂	-	Hydrogen
H ₂ O	-	Water
H ₂ O ₂	-	Hydrogen peroxide
HCl	-	Hydrochloric acid
HPLC	-	High pressure liquid chromatography
HRT	-	Hydraulic retention time
MPB	-	Methane producing bacteria
NaCl	-	Sodium chloride
NaOH	-	Sodium hydroxide

PHA	-	Polyhydroxyalkanoates
POME	-	Palm oil mill effluent
RT	-	Retention time
SS	-	Suspended solids
SRT	-	Solid retention time
TS	-	Total solids
TSS	-	Total suspended solids
UASB	-	Upflow anaerobic sludge blanket
V	-	Volume